[*Note*.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.

(1) ELECTION OF FIFTEEN MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I move—

' *That, with reference to Rule* 156 *of the Madras Assembly Rules, this Assembly do proceed on a date to be fixed by the Hon. the Speaker to elect fifteen members to be members of the Committee of Privileges for the financial year* 1954–55.' "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

' That, with reference to Rule 156 of the Madras Assembly Rules, this Assembly do proceed on a date to be fixed by the Hon. the Speaker to elect fifteen members to be members of the Committee of Privileges for the financial year 1954–55.' "

The motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER :—" In accordance with the regulations framed by me for the holding of elections according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 3 p.m. on Friday, the 26th March 1954, as the time within which nomination papers of candidates for election to the Committee of Privileges should reach the Secretary. Nomination forms can be had on application to the Secretary.

" The nomination papers will be taken up for scrutiny at 4 p.m. on Friday, the 26th March 1954. I also fix 3 p.m. on Tuesday, the 30th March 1954 as the last hour and date for the withdrawal of candidature.

" If the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of seats to be filled, namely fifteen, a poll will be taken on Friday, the 2nd April 1954 between the hours of 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m."

(2) ELECTION OF ELEVEN MEMBERS TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I beg to move—

' *That, with reference to Rule* 157 *of the Madras Assembly Rules, the House do proceed to elect eleven members to be members of the House Committee for the financial year* 1954–55.' "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

' That, with reference to Rule 157 of the Madras Assembly Rules, the House do proceed to elect eleven members to be members of the House Committee for the financial year 1954–55.' "

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SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, last year, a Committee was elected but hitherto this Committee did not submit any report to this House. As Members of this House, we are entitled to know the work done by this Committee. So, the hon. Minister should place a report of this Committee before this House. Otherwise, merely asking us to elect a Committee and the Committee not submitting a report, is not proper. Sir, I want the explanation of the Hon. Minister in this regard."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I thought this House Committee was doing very useful work and further, till now there was a Hostel Advisory Committee and now that also has been abolished. The entire powers have now been vested in the House Committee and it is only the Deputy Speaker who is the Chairman of this Committee. If necessary, I shall ask him to submit a report along with the orders of the Government."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Apart from what the hon. Member Sri K. P. Gopalan has said, we read alarming reports in the Press . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Alarming reports ! "

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Yes, Sir . . . that legislators have been losing their articles in the Hostel thieves and other kinds of intruder being at work there. These are the difficulties that beset us and when we read them we shudder to think how our brothren coming from mufassal places are put to this kind of loss and great inconvenience. I suggest that the report should be submitted even before the date on which a fresh Committee is to be elected."

(The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam rose.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" A number of hon. Members want to say something. I will call the Minister afterwards."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, சென்ற ஆண்டிலே ஒரு முக்கியமான தீர்மானம் போட்டு அனுப்பி- இருந்தோம் அதாவது அங்கத்தினர்களுக்காக இருக்கும் ஹாஸ்டலுக்குள்ள வாடகை மூன்று ரூபாயாக இருக்கக்கூடியதை இரண்டு ரூபாயாக குறைக்கவேண்டுமென்றும் மாத காலம் எடுத்துக்கொள்பவருக்கு மாத வாடகை 30 ரூபாயாகவும் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று சிபார்சு செய்து சர்க்காருக்கு அனுப்பப்பட்டது. ஆனால் அந்தக் கமிட்டியின் சிபார்சின் பேரில் நடவடிக்கை ஒன்றும் எடுக்கப்படவில்லை ஆதலால் இம் மாதிரியான ஒரு கமிட்டி தேவையில்லை என்று சொல்லிக்கொள்ள ஆசைப்படுகிறேன்."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" The hon. Member Sri Ramalingam has already expressed what I wanted to say. Further, I understand that the Government have only increased the guest charge after the receipt of the recommendations of the House Committee. I hope the Government will hereafter give heed to the recommendations of the House Committee."

* SRI B. K. NALLASWAMI :—" Sir, it is a pity that we are not able to get even first-aid in the Legislators' Hostel. I had my finger injured the other day and I had to waste one or two hours in search of a doctor. I was not even able to get a first-aid box. That is the state of affairs in the Hostel."

* SRI K. UPPI :—" I wish to know why the Hostel Committee was abolished. That Committee was doing real service. The House Committee has not been able to do any service all these years. But the Hostel Committee was really useful to the hon. Members who were staying in the Hostel. Why was that Committee abolished? After all, it did not entail any expenses to the Government."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am sure the hon. Member Mr. Vinayakam will realise that the Members of the House Committee were not responsible for this . . ."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" I never made any allegations against the Members of the Committee."

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Because, when we are discussing the motion for election of members to this House Committee he raised this serious charge, I was wondering whether he had any suspicion on any of the Members of the Committee. Sir, that had nothing to do with the House Committee as such. I have taken separate action to see that police officers keep a vigilant eye so that thefts may not occur. But, I find that the main difficulty is with reference to guests. Many people in the guise of 'guests' are going there and that is why thefts take place. We are taking as much precaution as possible and I am hoping these thefts will not occur again.

" Sir, with reference to the other suggestion, many of the recommendations made by the House Committee have been accepted by the Government and they are being implemented. With reference to the rent, I would ask the hon. Members to think about this. Because we are in a privileged position, are we to go on revising the rent without any consideration whatsoever of the cost of the buildings and what should be the economic return? I submit we have fixed the rent after taking into account the cost incurred in putting up the buildings and the usual return which should be expected. The Hon. the leader of the Opposition has also made representations with reference to that. I shall go into the entire matter and try to find out whether any reduction is possible without taking advantage of our position and without being unfair to the people and to the Government. Subject to that, I hope hon. Members will take this assurance. I am trying to implement all the recommendations of the House Committee. When I visited the Hostel, they gave about thirteen suggestions and all the thirteen suggestions have been accepted and I think they are being implemented also. If they are not being implemented, it may be they are in the process of being implemented. I am very particular that the best convenience should be made

available to the hon. Members during their stay here in connection with the sessions of the legislature and I am trying my best to improve the position. I hope that with the co-operation of the House Committee and also with the co-operation of the Members, we will be able to arrive at a satisfactory formula so that hon. Members may feel quite at home during their stay here."

MR. SPEAKER :—" One hon. Member wanted to know about first-aid arrangements in the hostel."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We have passed orders for a doctor to be posted to the Hostel. But there is some difficulty with reference to the selection of personnel. Many people, after offering themselves for the post, finally dropped out. But I shall try my best to get a doctor posted to the Hostel."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" I wanted a common room for the new block."

MR. SPEAKER :—" For all the Members? "

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" For the Members of the new block."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It will be considered. Now, the question is—

'That, with reference to rule 157 of the Madras Assembly Rules, the House do proceed to elect eleven members to be members of the House Committee for the financial year 1954–55.' "

The motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER :—" In accordance with the regulations framed by me for the holding of elections according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 3 p.m. on Friday, the 26th March 1954, as the time within which nomination papers of candidates for election to the House Committee should reach the Secretary. Nomination forms can be had on application to the Secretary.

" The nomination papers will be taken up for scrutiny at 4 p.m. on Friday, the 26th March 1954. I also fix 3 p.m. on Tuesday, the 30th March 1954 as the last hour and date for the withdrawal of candidature.

" If the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of seats to be filled, namely eleven, a poll will be taken on Friday, the 2nd April 1954 between the hours of 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m."

(3) ELECTION OF FOURTEEN MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I move—

' That, with reference to rule 138 of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules, this Assembly do proceed on a date to be fixed by the Hon. the Speaker, to elect fourteen members to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the financial year 1954–55.' "